

THE PRIORITY LIEN LAW.

The following is the context of the Act amending the Lien Law:

SECTION 1. That from and after the passage of this Act the landlord shall have a lien upon the crops of his tenant for his rent in preference to all other liens. That laborers who assist in making any crop shall have a lien thereon to the extent of the amount due them for such labor next in priority to the landlord, and as between such laborers there shall be no preference. That all other liens for agricultural supplies shall be paid next after the satisfaction of the liens of the landlord and the laborers, and shall rank in other respects as they do now under existing laws.

SEC. 2. That no writing or recording shall be necessary to create the liens of the landlord, but such liens shall exist from the date of the contract, whether the same be in writing or verbal.

SEC. 3. That all Acts and parts of Acts inconsistent with or supplied by this Act be, and the same are hereby repealed.

It is true that there was a demand on the part of some for the repeal of the lien law. Whether or not it would have been wise to repeal that law it does not now need to discuss. The last Legislature did not repeal it. On the contrary they tacked on to it an amendment that we do not hesitate to say savors strongly of a return to feudalism in that it puts the poor renter and laborer in the power of the landlord. There are numbers of men, white men, who do not own land and who are compelled to rent. To such the above amendment is a cruel blow. It puts them absolutely in the power and control of the landlord. For no merchant is going to advance to them upon the security of a lien, whilst the landlord holds this almost unlimited power over them. We recall that it was said privately in Columbia during the session that this Act was intended to make the lien law odious so that its repeal might be the more easily accomplished hereafter. If this be true it was a weakness on the part of the Legislature, which did not dare to cope with the question. That the amendment was not made in the interest of the poor and laboring man is shown by the Act itself. After providing that laborers who assist in making the crop shall have a lien next in priority to that of the landlord, section 2, provides "that no writing or recording shall be necessary to create the liens of the landlord." It will be observed that it was not said that the lien of the laborer need not be recorded or written. On the contrary it would appear that provision was purposely omitted. So that under the guise of protecting the laborer, he really under this Act stands on no better ground than others whose liens are written and recorded.

Above all the Act throws open the door to fraud. At the end of the year by collusion and connivance between a dishonest laborer and his landlord the whole of the crop may be gathered up and protected from honest creditors by claim of a fictitious verbal lien of the landlord.

Upon the whole it seems to us the amendment is unwise and pernicious. If the experience of the country proves that the lien law has ceased to be useful then let it be repealed in full. Amendments in the nature of that above set forth cannot be of any avail.

FARMS FOR THE CONVICTS.

The question of the proper care of the convicts has been one of growing importance for several years. The system of leasing them has its drawbacks. There is no question that under it, great cruelties have been practiced. The space within the Penitentiary was too small for their comfortable and healthful keeping. Moreover the great number of them within the building could not be worked to advantage, and the expense of the institution threatened to become a heavy burden upon the already heavily burdened taxpayers of the State. Under these circumstances the Legislature at the session just closed, passed an Act authorizing the authorities of the Penitentiary to lease or buy farms upon which so many of the convicts as it should be deemed advisable, should be worked under the direction of the officers of that institution. The Directors have leased two farms near Columbia, and will immediately begin work. Of course this is but an experiment. In conjunction with the Act providing for the working of roads and streets by a certain class of convicts, which will lessen the number sent to the Penitentiary, it may relieve the overcrowded condition of the State Prison. Let it have a fair trial.

At New York Cost.—Fine ribbons, neck wear &c., at prices that will sell them at R. M. Haddon & Co's.

THE CONFEDERATE SEAL.

Where the Last Confederate Cabinet Meeting was Held—The Seal of the Young Nation Thrown into the Savannah River.

PENDELTON, December 26.

To the Editor of the News and Courier:

"A few days ago you copied from the New York Sun an Abbeville letter which stated that the last act of the Confederate Cabinet took place at Mr. Burt's house in that village. Mr. Thomas C. Perrin, like Mr. Burt, is dead now, but he told me that it was in a room in his house, since burned to the ground, that that last meeting of the Cabinet took place, and I remember being impressed with this coincidence, that as South Carolina was the first State to secede, so Mr. Perrin, (being in the Secession Convention from Abbeville) was the first man who signed the first Secession Ordinance, and now in his house took place the last act of the Confederate Government.

Mr. Perrin gave a different account of the disposal of the Confederate seal from that given by the Sun's correspondent. Mr. Benjamin consulted Mr. Perrin on that point and proposed the use of fire. Mr. Perrin told me he suggested depositing it in the bosom of the Savannah when they should cross over it.

I communicated this statement to you some years ago and you published it, when immediately there appeared another statement, to the effect that some gentlemen in Abbeville, whose name I cannot recall, has the Confederate seal now in his possession."

The above article which we find in the News and Courier induced us to try to find out something about the matter. For this purpose we called upon Judges McGowan and Cothran, and after some solicitation obtained their views. Judge McGowan said:

All I know about the last meeting of the Confederate Cabinet in Abbeville, is this: About the first of May 1865, the President and most of the Cabinet arrived at Abbeville on their way to the west, possibly over the Mississippi river, when it was expected the war would be still carried on. Mrs. Davis had been staying for some time previous, with Mrs. Burt, whom she had known in Washington. Mr. Davis therefore, and I think some of the Cabinet, went to the house of Mr. Burt. Mr. Benjamin, Mallory and others, went to the houses of Judge Wardlaw and Col. T. C. Perrin, which were in the immediate vicinity. The three houses were in a stone's throw of each other.

The party staid in Abbeville several days, and during that time were almost constantly with each other. I lived in a different part of the town, but called several times to see the President, and always found him with some of the other gentlemen at the house of Mr. Burt, (now Norwood's.)

I have no personal knowledge of any formal Cabinet meeting, but I have no doubt they had such, probably more than one, and perhaps at both the houses of Mr. Burt and Col. Perrin, where most of the gentlemen were staying. I well remember calling at the house of Mr. Burt to see the President. It was about 9 o'clock, at night, and the President came into the room with a pistol buckled around him, saying, as he entered, that "it was the first time since the commencement of the war, that he had thought it necessary to provide for his personal safety." Intelligence had just reached them, that a body of cavalry under one General Brown of the Federal army was trying to cut off the party from going west, and possibly were then at Anderson C. H., or in haste march towards the Savannah river for that purpose. This intelligence and the small escort which accompanied them, had induced the conclusion that the party should immediately recommence their westward journey. They left that night, I think about 10 o'clock.

I never heard anything about the Confederate seal. Did not know that it was in the party. There were wagons with them, which it was said, were loaded with bullion belonging to the banks in Richmond and probably the Confederate Government. The rumor afterwards was, that at the river or at some point beyond, these wagons were raided, but as to the truth of this rumor, I never knew.

Judge Cothran said: I had just returned home from the army, when Mr. Davis and his party arrived at Abbeville. My family was sick, and my business in much confusion, so that I have no great knowledge of what occurred here. I know that the President and some of the members of the Cabinet stopped at Mr. Burt's, where Mrs. Norwood now lives. Several members of the Cabinet and of the President's staff were at Col. T. C. Perrin's and I do not know if the President was ever there. My impression is that the President was in feeble health and they went to him. I never heard anything of the seal and did not know it was along.

From all this we are inclined to think that the last Cabinet meeting was held at Mr. Burt's. If any of our readers know anything of these matters we would be glad to publish it.

Bargains, Bargains.

For the next thirty days we offer a great many goods at astonishingly low prices, to reduce stock before moving, 1st of January next. R. M. Haddon & Co.

Look Out.

Mill is in town again. He makes as good a picture as any of them.

Mr. J. M. Taylor is selling goods for Galphin & Johnson.

Bluestone in abundance, 3 lbs. for 25 cents, at Speed & Neuffer.

Some of the More Interesting of the New Laws.

[From News and Courier.]

The following Acts and Joint Resolutions were passed at the session of the General Assembly which ended on December 24:

XI—STATUTORY LIENS.

AN ACT to prescribe the Priorities of certain Statutory Liens.

SEC. 1. That from and after the passage of this Act the landlord shall have a lien upon the crops of his tenant for his rent in preference to all other liens. That laborers who assist in making any crop shall have a lien thereon to the extent of the amount due them for such labor next in priority to the landlord, and as between such laborers there shall be no preference. That all other liens for agricultural supplies shall be paid next after the satisfaction of the liens of the landlord and the laborers, and shall rank in other respects as they do now under existing laws.

SEC. 2. That no writing or recording shall be necessary to create the liens of the landlord, but such liens shall exist from the date of the contract, whether the same be in writing or verbal.

SEC. 3. That all Acts and parts of Acts inconsistent with or supplied by this Act be, and the whether same are hereby repealed.

XIII—JAIL AND MUNICIPAL CONVICTS.

AN ACT to utilize the labor of Jail and Municipal convicts and to empower the Courts and Municipal Authorities to impose the punishment of labor within their respective jurisdictions.

SEC. 1. That from and after the passage of this Act all Courts and municipal authorities which under existing laws have power to sentence convicts to confinement in prison may within their discretion impose the condition of hard labor for a period not exceeding ninety days.

SEC. 2. That all convicts so sentenced to hard labor and confinement may, upon the conditions hereinafter specified, be required to perform hard labor upon the public highways, roads, bridges and other public works of the county in which the offense of which they are convicted was committed, or upon the streets or other public works within the incorporated cities, towns and villages in which the offense for which they are sentenced are committed.

SEC. 3. That all convicts so sentenced to hard labor for the county shall be under the direction and control of the board of county commissioners, and the said municipal convicts under sentence to hard labor shall be under the direction and control of the said municipal authorities, who shall respectively direct the time, place and manner of the labor to be performed; Provided, that in their judgment it be practicable to employ the labor to advantage. And provided, further, that the said board of county commissioners and the said municipal authorities respectively provide suitable and efficient guards for the safe-keeping of said convicts, and that said guards be paid for such service out of the county funds when employed by said boards of county commissioners, and out of municipal funds when employed by said municipal authorities.

SEC. 4. That the county sheriffs charged with the custody of prisoners so sentenced to hard labor shall, during the work hours of the day or during a term of days to be specified by said commissioners upon the order of the board of county commissions, deliver them to the safe-keeping of the authorities herein provided for their control and direction.

XIV—ILLICIT SALE OF LIQUORS.

AN ACT to equalize the Punishment of all persons convicted in the Court of General Sessions of the sale of spirituous or intoxicating liquors, whether under the General Law or Special Laws applicable to towns.

SEC. 1. That from and after the approval of this Act all persons convicted in the Court of General Sessions of the sale of spirituous or intoxicating liquors, wines, fruits prepared with spirituous liquors, bitters or beverages of which spirituous liquors form an ingredient, whether under the general law or special laws applicable to certain towns, shall be punished by the presiding Judge by imprisonment not exceeding six months, or by fine not exceeding \$200, or both, at the discretion of said Judge.

SEC. 2. All Acts or parts of Acts inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed.

XVII—SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

AN ACT to amend an Act entitled "An Act to limit the ages of Pupils attending the Free Public Schools," approved December 22, 1883.

SEC. 1. That an Act entitled "An Act to limit the ages of pupils attending the free public schools," approved December 22, 1883, be, and the same is hereby amended by striking out the whole of the first section of said Act and inserting the following in lieu thereof: Section 1. That from and after the passage of this Act, it shall not be lawful for any person who is less than six or more than eighteen years of age to attend any of the free public schools.

XX—AGRICULTURAL LIENS.

AN ACT to amend an Act entitled "An Act authorizing Trial Justices to issue Warrants for the enforcement of Agricultural Liens in certain cases and to fix compensation therefor."

SECTION 1. That an Act entitled "An Act authorizing Trial Justices to issue warrants for the enforcement of agricultural liens in certain cases," be, and the same is hereby amended by adding thereto the following sections, to be known as Sections 4 and 5, as follows: "Any person or persons whose crop or crops, whether the same be severed from the freehold or not, may be seized under the provisions of the preceding sections shall have the right, upon entering into bond in accordance with the provisions of law now of force in regard

to actions for claim and delivery of personal property, to recover immediate possession of the crop or crops so seized: Provided, that nothing herein contained shall be construed as to affect any of the provisions of said preceding sections in cases where no bond is given as herein authorized."

SIC. 5. The cost and fees of Trial Justices in cases for enforcement of agricultural liens shall be the same as for Clerks of Court in similar cases. The costs and fees of constables in Trial Justices' Courts shall be the same as, in like cases are now allowed to Sheriff's.

The Priority Lien Law.

[From the Abbeville Press and Banner.]

To show that we constituents are not ungrateful to our lawmakers for their efforts at rectitude, is the object of this piece.

The present Legislature has immortalized itself, by the pure, high toned, disinterested laws it has made, laws that, for impartiality and fairness to all classes, have not been exceeded, even by the Black Code. His Statute Majesty never conceived such ideas of fair dealing between man and man as these laws contain. The honesty, of these laws, in wrapped in more plies and shields of protection and safety, than were ever compiled in law before, and is as far beyond comprehension as the East is from the West, but still it is there grand, incomprehensible and unaccountable. It can only be seen through the eye of faith, and to see it clearly requires faith a little larger than a mustard seed.

The Priority Lien Law caps the climax in honesty and fairness to all parties concerned, of anything ever achieved in legislation. It has more contrivances in fewer words, to make people act honestly and uprightly than any law on the Statute books from Moses of Egypt to Moses of South Carolina. It stands like a wind mill to catch every dishonest breeze that passes through the country to purify and utilize them. It removes every temptation to commit fraud, as it would be almost impossible to do so under it. A person has only to tell the plain truth about his contracts for labor and rents to sweep all.

This almost divine law makes a contract for rent or labor as pure as virginity itself and not to be gazed on by the modest public. It is only to be brought in to save the proceeds of the farm from the ravenous grasp of the dishonest merchant. There can be no motive or inducement to use false witnesses, or to make misstatements, as all that is necessary to make all things as straight as fish hooks, is to get your witnesses all ready the day before settlements are made, and in their presence make contracts for rent and labor, or either, to cover the value of the entire crop, and you are safe. To make it all the more plausible, you could state, in their presence, that you had made this contract on the first day of January, soon in the morning, so there could be no possible hope of getting ahead of you in any particular. The honesty of this law is so deep-seated that you could not reach it with a ten foot cork screw, it is so clear that you can see through it, it is so elastic as to fit any emergency, it is capable of making a virtue of every vice in the catalogue, so straight that its ends and sides meet, so straight that it points in all directions, it is so fair as to give all more than their rights, it is more universal than universality, it saves all, it purifies rottenness and removes every evil taint, its beauties and perfections commend it to all fairminded people.

Legislators that could construct such a bright-eyed jewel of honesty and fair play should hold their seats for life. There could not be found another set of men in the State, outside of the penitentiary, that have such a sense of what is right and proper, and the next most becoming thing they can do is to pass an Act making themselves life-members— I mean of the Legislature. By a *lupus penae*, I was made to say penitentiary where I should have said Legislature, so I crave the pardon of the gentlemen of either institution that may take offence at the mistake.

Respectfully yours,

SCRUBBS.

Backlen's Arnica Salve.

The best salve in the world for Cuts, Bruises, Sores, Ulcers, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, Tetter, Chapped Hands, Chilblains, Corns, and all Skin Eruptions, and positively cures Piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction, or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by Cothran & Perrin.

NOTICE.

The subscribers to the Capital's Book of the

National Bank of Abbeville, S. C.

ARE hereby notified that a call for the payment of the second installment (being one-tenth of their subscription) has been made for

JANUARY 1st, 1886.

The Cashier will be prepared to receipt for the same at the office of the Bank. By order of the Board of Directors.

A. B. WARDLAW, President.
BENJ. S. BARNWELL, Cashier.

Nov 3-1f

JAS. G. BAILIE & SONS,

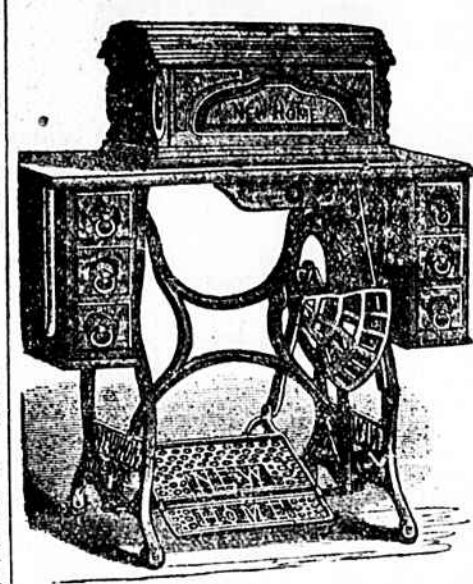
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July 29 th '85, 12mo. 118

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KEEP constantly on hand a full, and well selected stock of pure

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Herbine,

the best Liver Medicine, cures Dyspepsia, for Sale only by us.

Try our BLACKBERRY CORDIAL for Summer Complaint; and our Compound Syrup Sarsaparilla with Iodine Potash, for the Blood.

BED BUG POISON,

the most convenient way of destroying these insects.

DIAMOND DYES,

all the Staple and Fashionable Colors.

A full line of Fancy Goods.

Pollet Articles, Stationery etc. etc.

The best Brands of

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A complete stock of White Leads, Paints, Gills, Varnishes, etc., etc., Paint Brushes, Window Glazs.

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Physician's prescriptions and family recipes filled at all hours of day and night, by experienced and competent hands.

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April 29, 1885, 1f 83.

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Oct. 30, '85-1f 135

Notice.

LOST or mislaid a note for \$357.55 given by Mr. A. H. McNeill to Mrs. Emma R. Carville. Said note has been paid in full and is void. All parties are hereby warned not to trade for said note.

Dec 22, '85. EMMA R. CARVILLE.

Fashionable Clothing.



MY large stock of Clothing for men, youths and boys for Fall and Winter is the largest and most complete assortment of garments I have ever carried. I have the current styles of one, two and three button Cutaways in worsted, plain and fancy whipcut in all the prevailing colors, such suits as Double and Single breasted, square cut, also with round corners. The make, fit, and trimming of the garments are equal to any custom made garment. Now if you desire a tailor made suit send up your order while the stock is fresh and the sizes are not broken. For information I give you the directions as follows: For coat and vest give breast measure and pants waist measure and the inside seam of pants to the heel of shoe. For children and boys give their age, whether large or small at their age.

The boys and children's department are full of choice suits for the little ones in all styles, prices and quantities, knee pants suits from 4 years to 13 years, Youth's and men's from 12 years to 17 years. Youth's and men's from 32 breast to 50 inches. I am able with this stock to fit any ordinary size man or an extra size for stout men. Gents furnishing goods of every description, also a complete line of neckwear in all grades and prices. An elegant line of soft and stiff hats of variety and style. The new full style Broadway Silk Hat and cassimere. Now is the time to send in your order which will receive prompt attention if entrusted to my care. Respectfully,

H. L. KINARD,

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A large proportion of the diseases which cause human suffering result from derangement of the stomach, bowels, and liver. AYER'S CATHARTIC PILLS act directly upon these organs, and are especially designed to cure the diseases caused by their derangement, including Constipation, Indigestion, Dyspepsia, Headache, Dizziness, and a host of other ailments, for all of which they are a safe, sure, prompt, and pleasant remedy. The extensive use of these PILLS by eminent physicians in regular practice, shows unmistakably the estimation in which they are held by the medical profession. These PILLS are compounded of vegetable substances only, and are absolutely free from calomel or any other injurious ingredient.

"A Sufferer from Headache writes: 'AYER'S PILLS are invaluable to me, and are my constant companion. I have been a severe sufferer from Headache, and your PILLS are the only thing I could look to for relief. One dose will quickly move my bowels and free my head. Your PILLS are the most effective and the easiest I have ever found. It is a pleasure to me to speak in their praise, and I always do so when occasion offers.'

W. L. PAGE, of W. L. Page & Bro., Franklin St., Richmond, Va., June 3, 1882.

"I have used AYER'S PILLS in numberless instances as recommended by you, and have never known them to fail to accomplish the desired result. We constantly keep them on hand at our home, and prize them as a pleasant, safe, and reliable family medicine. FOR DYSPEPSIA they are invaluable."

J. T. HAYES, Mexico, Texas, June 17, 1882.

The REV. FRANCIS B. HARLOWE, writing from Atlanta, Ga., says: "For some years past I have been subject to constipation, from which, in spite of the use of medicines of various kinds, I suffered increasing inconvenience, until some months ago I began taking AYER'S PILLS. They entirely corrected the active habit, and have vastly improved my general health."

AYER'S CATHARTIC PILLS correct irregularities of the bowels, stimulate the appetite and digestion, and by their prompt and thorough action give tone and vigor to the whole physical economy.

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All experience the wonderful beneficial effects of

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Children with Sore Eyes, Sore Ears, or any scrofulous or syphilitic taint, may be made healthy and strong by its use.

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